

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takashi HIRUMA)
Application No.: Unassigned) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: August 15, 2000) Examiner: Unassigned
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND)
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. Hei 9-277606. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application.

b. Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. Hei 3-58176. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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